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Drinking Water Quality Protection and Improvement Actions

Policy Statement of Continuous Improvement of In-Delta Water Quality

Maintaining and improving in-Delta water quality is a necessary and important component of the CALFED Program.

Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Source Water Protection Strategy

1. Policy Development - The Central Valley RWQCB will establish a drinking water policy for the Delta and upstream tributaries. This policy will include the comprehensive designation of appropriate water bodies for drinking water uses, the establishment of water quality objectives for salinity and other drinking water constituents of concern, and the development of plans to control sources of established drinking water contaminants of concern. The CVRWQCB and SWRCB would then evaluate, and where appropriate, determine whether additional protective measures (regulatory and/or incentive-based) are needed to protect those beneficial uses.

2. Monitoring and Assessment - A comprehensive monitoring and assessment program is being developed to evaluate the contribution of pollutants from a variety of sources, including ag, wetland, and urban runoff, wastewater, and boating, and to prioritize pollutant reduction measures. During Stage 1, $3 million will be provided to DWR, CVRWQCB, and USGS for monitoring and evaluation.

3. Implementation - Commensurate with this monitoring and evaluation, appropriate actions will be identified to control these pollutants. During Stage 1, $5 million will be provided to supplement program implementation at CVRWQCB, DWR, and DHS. In addition, $20 million will be provided for incentive grants and loans to encourage the implementation of specific source control measures.

Implement a Comprehensive San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program

4. Continue evaluations of the drainage problem in the San Joaquin Valley including analysis of potential solutions (e.g., on-farm and district source control measures, development of treatment technology, real-time management, implementation of projects such as the Grasslands Bypass Project Use Agreement, and land management/fallowing/retirement) and implement initial San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program actions, including appropriate monitoring. These efforts will be funded at a level of $25 million in Stage 1.

Invest in Treatment-Technology Development of UV Disinfection and Desalinization

5. UV Disinfection - Implement a demonstration project to design and operate an open-

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channel UV disinfection plant at 5-10 mgd to treat Delta water. This project will be implemented by USEPA/DHS and will be funded at a level of $11 million ($1M for design and $10M for construction) in Stage 1.

6. Membrane Treatment - Implement demonstration projects to design and operate desalinization facilities for agricultural drainage on a local (i.e., site specific) and regional scale that would have both Delta and statewide significance. Emphasis should be on management of brines and waste streams on-site. This project will be implemented by USEPA/DHS and will be funded at a level of $14 million ($1M for design, 10M for construction and $3M for operation and maintenance) in Stage 1.

Control Runoff into the California Aqueduct

7. $25 million will be provided to DWR to implement appropriate physical modifications and watershed management programs to control runoff into the California Aqueduct.

Improve Bay Area Water Quality

8. Develop and implement a Bay Area water management strategy, including:
   - Implement the initial phase of the **Bay Area Blending/Exchange** project, including evaluation of existing infrastructure and alternative changes in conveyance and storage. These efforts will be funded at a level of $20 million in Stage 1, including $5 million to DWR for the evaluation of a San Luis Reservoir Bypass to connect the San Felipe Unit with the California Aqueduct.
   - Ensure aggressive implementation of Bay Area **water use efficiency measures**.
   - Implement the initial phase of the **Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program**. These efforts will be funded at a level of $250M (50% of total cost) in Stage 1.
   - Initiate feasibility studies to determine the costs and benefits of both (1) implementing **North Bay Aqueduct exchanges** with Lake Berryessa and (2) relocating the North Bay Aqueduct intake nearer to the Sacramento River. These actions will be funded at a combined level of $400,000 in Stage 1.
   - Implement actions that solve problems of elevated salinity and other pollutants at **Delta intakes**. These efforts will be implemented by USEPA/CVRWQCB and funded at a level of $4-10M in Stage 1.

Expand Cross-Valley Interconnects to Facilitate Sierra/Valley Exchanges

9. Appropriate infrastructure improvements will be evaluated to facilitate Sierra/Valley water exchanges to address water quality concerns of municipal suppliers. These efforts will be funded at a level of $5 million in Stage 1.

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